



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 27, 2018

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jon Jainga, SPR Natural Resources Manager and Kathy Nyland, SPR

Subject: Viewpoint Advisory Team

The purpose of the memo is to describe the process to engage research and community in creating a plan to better serve our viewpoint parks. This includes convening of a Viewpoint Advisory Team, consisting of internal and external stakeholders and technical experts. This document also includes information about the history of these designated viewpoints, and the objectives and desired outcomes of this approach.

The September 27 meeting will serve as an informational briefing and we hope to return to the Board of Park Commissioners in early November with a report out from the Viewpoint Advisory Team and share the options we are exploring as next steps.

Project Process and Background

As part of our 2018 work plan, SPR has committed to reviewing and updating our viewpoint park policies. This includes designation, criteria, examining current practices, as well as developing sustainable maintenance strategies, policies and funding.

Context:

Seattle is known for its natural beauty. Our parks and open space contribute to making this region a destination. There's a reason why Seattle often ranks as one of the most livable cities. We are surrounded by classic icons such as Mount Rainier, the Cascades, and the Space Needle. We offer park spaces to take in these iconic views to locals and tourists alike.

Many of these viewpoints were designated several decades ago. Since then criteria, policies and regulations have changed, including environmental standards and best practices associated with maintenance. Any recommendations about proposed work that pertain to viewpoints must be consistent with Best Management Practices, as well as local, state, and federal regulations, e.g., Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) or Shorelines.

Objectives:

To develop a reliable, consistent and sustainable system that maintains our designated public viewpoints.



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Process:

The process includes an emphasis on data collection and research as well as a thorough assessment of our current practices and conditions of the viewpoint parks. This process will involve:

- **Technical Team** is a multi-disciplinary effort, consisting of SPR staff, SDCI, and other Subject Matter Experts (SME) who collect data, research other jurisdictions, identify best practices, and identify issues for development of options. Works closely with and is responsive to the Advisory Team. The Technical Team will conduct: site evaluations, inventory critical areas, document conditions (including views, vegetation, and any significant features such as slope/topography). The group will also look at national standards and best practices that have been identified over recent years.
- **Advisory Team** consisting of representatives of SPR, Board of Park Commissioners, and community members. Meet up to four times to receive presentations and needed information to help formulate options. SPR anticipates that the research and analysis will result in identification of a range of options for changes in how services are provided throughout our viewpoint parks, including the possibility of funding needs. The Advisory Team will also help SPR identify options to include to the Superintendent and Park Board, including pros and cons of each possibility.
- **Superintendent** will review the options presented, deliberate and ultimately make his recommendation based on the information presented.
- **Demonstration sites**, or pilot parks, to implement ideas and recommendations. This will allow us to “course correct” as necessary before implementation across all designations.
 - Proposed demonstration sites include:
 - Admiral Way Viewpoint
 - Dr. Jose Rizal Park
 - Hamilton Park
 - Sunset Hill Park

Advisory Team Details

In order to do this, the Advisory Team working group will:

- Hold meetings that are open to the public, with times and locations being announced on SPR’s website with advanced notification
- Receive briefings and presentations on relevant research and analysis, and provide feedback that guides further work
- Become familiar with the designation process, and those parks currently/officially deemed as such
- Become familiar with the conditions at the determined (pilot) parks
- Become familiar with the current operations of our maintenance staff
- Become familiar with other alternative service delivery models used by other jurisdictions



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- Receive input from the general public and internal stakeholders
- Generate ideas and possible options for operations
- Provide feedback on draft materials provided by SPR
- Think BIG picture on city-wide needs

The members are expected to:

- Attend four meetings of the Advisory Team, plus other public meetings if needed
- Read the materials provided prior to the meetings, and come prepared for discussions
- Follow up on agreed group norms
- Be a valued contributor whose efforts and interests are appreciated

The members are not expected to:

- Open up the process for future designations
- Bypass regulatory standards and fair labor practices
- Focus on neighborhood specific wants

The Advisory Team will begin considerations in September, and will continue deliberations and discussions through October, with the expectations of a final presentation of options to occur in late October.

This working group will meet at the Dexter Board Room on the following dates:

- September 12
- September 26
- October 10
- October 24

Goals

Both working groups are important and needed to develop a comprehensive data-driven analysis of various options for the future of our viewpoint parks. The efforts described will help determine a maintenance strategy, policies and budget to achieve desired results.

The final deliverable will be a report to the Superintendent which will include:

- The options developed
- The process for option development
- Data collected and analyzed
- Public outreach and input

Additional Information

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/special-initiatives-and-programs/viewpoint-advisory-team>

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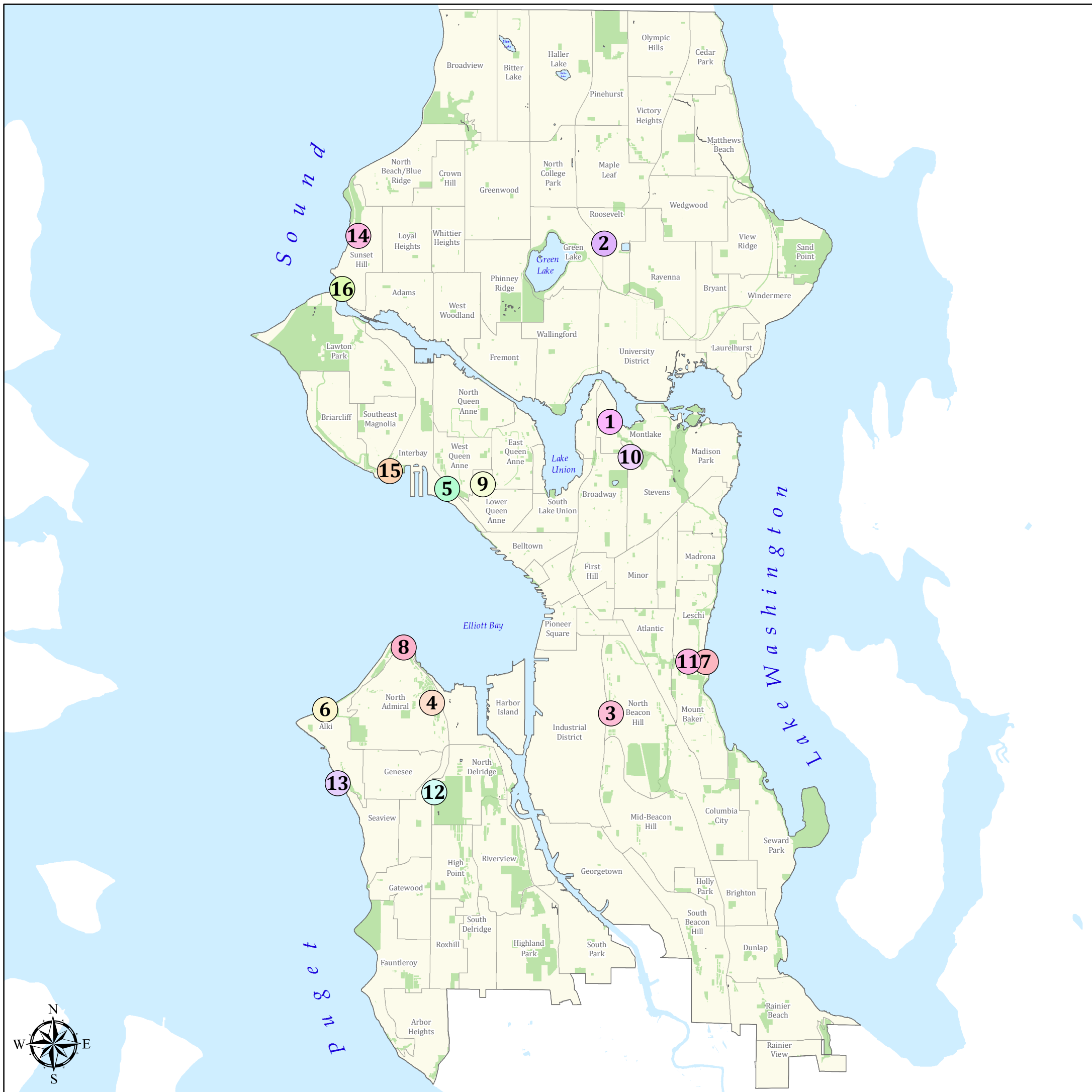


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Attachments

- Item A. Geographic Map- Shows all (16) designated viewpoint parks.
- Item B. Matrix of elements within viewpoint parks
- Item C. Designation process, DPP 060-P 2.17

Park Viewpoint Locations



Key

1	Bagley Viewpoint
2	Banner Place/Rainbow Viewpoint
3	12th Ave S. Viewpoint
4	Belvedere Park
5	Betty Bowen Viewpoint (Marshall Park)
6	Charles Richey Sr. Viewpoint (Alki Beach Park)
7	East Portal I-90 Overlook
8	Hamilton Viewpoint
9	Kerry Viewpoint (Kerry Park)
10	Louisa Boren Lookout (Louisa Boren Park)
11	Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint
12	West Seattle Rotary Viewpoint
13	Emma Schmitz Memorial Overlook
14	Sunset Hill Viewpoint (Sunset Hill Park)
15	Ursula Judkins Viewpoint
16	NW 60th Street Viewpoint



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healthy people healthy environment strong communities

Viewpoint Name		Size: Square Feet	Frequency (High, Medium, Low)	ADA Accessible	Benches	Significant Trees & Shrubs	Obstructions	Parking	Other Amenities: i.e. Art	Iconic View (i.e. broadcast)	Drainage	Retaining Wall	Fence	Fence placement issues	Vegetation issues	ECA	Slope	Slopes greater than 40%	Slide history	Shoreline
1	Bagley Viewpoint	6,224	L	X	1		X				X			X	x	x	x			
2	Banner Place/Rainbow Viewpoint	9,610	L	X	2		X							X	x					
3	12th Avenue South Viewpoint	50,205	M		1		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
4	Belvedere Viewpoint (Admiral Viewpoint in Belvedere Park)	35,685	H	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			
5	Betty Bowen Viewpoint (Marshall Park)	38,088	H	X	1	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
6	Charles Richey Sr. Viewpoint (Alki Beach Park)	5,919,768	L	X	3			X	X		X	X								X
7	East Portal I-90 Overlook	315,731	H	X				X	X	X		X	X		X	x				
8	Hamilton Viewpoint	569,146	H	X	3		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
9	Kerry Viewpoint (Kerry Park)	31,753	H	X	3			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			
10	Louisa Boren Lookout (Louisa Boren Park)	293,808	H	X	2	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X			
11	Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint	2,785	L	X	2	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			
12	West Seattle Rotary Viewpoint	97,590	M	X	3	X			X					X	X					
13	Emma Schmitz Memorial Overlook	758,109	M	X	2			X	X						X	X				X
14	Sunset Hill Viewpoint	92,503	H	X	3	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
15	Ursula Judkins Viewpoint	20,464	L			X	X	X			X		X		X	X	X			
16	NW 60th Street Viewpoint	5,346	L	X	1				X				X							X

Department Policy & Procedure



Subject: Viewpoint Designations	Number 060-P 2.17	
	Effective 6/8/06	
	Supersedes	
Approved:	Department: Parks and Recreation	Page 1 of 3

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Viewpoints raise expectations of the general public; i.e. if a Park or portion of a Parks is named as a “viewpoint” or “overlook” or other similar moniker, the public expects to be able to go to that viewpoint in perpetuity and see significant natural and developed features such as Mount Rainier, the Space Needle and/or the City skyline, Lake Washington, Puget Sound or the Olympic or Cascade mountain ranges. From the Department’s perspective, this public perception has potentially significant budgetary and staffing implications. Once designated as a viewpoint, the Department is responsible for the long-term vegetation management to ensure that the designated view remains and for the overall operations and maintenance of the site.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 Proposals for new viewpoints, overlooks or other such designation shall be forwarded to the Board of Parks Commissioners for their consideration as part of the park naming process. If a new park name is to include “viewpoint”, “overlook” or other such designation, the below criteria contained in § 1.11.3 must be met. A staff recommendation shall be forwarded to the Board of Park Commissioners for their consideration prior to any final decision of the Superintendent. The Board shall then make a recommendation to the Superintendent on any viewpoint designation in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation Naming Committee’s recommendation to the Superintendent regarding any new park name (Policy & Procedures Manual § 1.4.1).
- 2.2 Criteria: The following criteria must be met:
- 2.2.1 The object of the view shall be a significant natural and/or developed feature(s) such as Mount Rainier, the Space Needle and/or the City skyline, Lake Washington, Puget Sound, or the Olympic or Cascade mountain ranges;
 - 2.2.2 The view shall be the central focus of the park such as at Kerry Park or Hamilton Viewpoint;
 - 2.2.3 The view shall be unique and not duplicative of any other nearby viewpoint; and,
 - 2.2.4 The site should serve a broader population and not be predominantly a neighborhood amenity.
- 2.3 Staff Recommendation: The staff recommendation shall include the following considerations and shall be performed in cooperation with Parks staff including but not limited to the Senior Urban Forester, Senior Planner and the District Manager and/or Crew Chief. The above criteria and following considerations shall form the basis of the

staff recommendation to the Board of Park Commissioners and shall include a discussion of the value of the project to the Department and to the City balanced against any potential loss of urban forest as well as the short-term and long-term costs of the development.

- 2.3.1 Description of the view and the object of the view, e.g. Mt. Rainier, Space Needle; either existing or potential after vegetation removal. Note that the description of the view should include the horizontal and vertical viewshed and the location *on the site* where the view is taken from;
- 2.3.2 Existing site amenities (if any);
- 2.3.3 Surrounding amenities, e.g., proximity to a neighborhood business district, on-street parking, nearby Metro bus access;
- 2.3.4 What improvements are needed, e.g. on-site parking, ADA access pathway;
- 2.3.5 Extent of vegetation removal needed to open and/or maintain the view, now and/or in the future; Potential impact(s) to existing urban forest of vegetation removal; Any proposed vegetation removal must be consistent with the Department's Tree Management, Maintenance, Pruning and/or Removal Policy;
- 2.3.6 Is the vegetation to be removed on Parks property, other public property, or private property; what are the potential impacts associated with the vegetation removal, such slope stability,
- 2.3.7 Description of surrounding existing and potential land uses and zoning which could impact views;
- 2.3.8 Estimated cost of vegetation removal;
- 2.3.9 Estimated annual maintenance costs; and,
- 2.3.10 Estimated needed improvement costs.

2.4 The following is a list of the designated viewpoints:

with printers reallocated to sites without duplex printers Viewpoints	
<i>Park</i>	<i>Address</i>
Bagley Viewpoint	10 th Ave E & E Roanoke Street
Banner Place/Rainbow Viewpoint	Banner Way NE/5 th Ave NE
12 th Avenue South Viewpoint	12 th Ave S & S McClellan St
Belvedere Viewpoint (Admiral Viewpoint in Belvedere Park)	SW Admiral Way & SW Olga St
Betty Bowen Viewpoint (Marshall Park)	7 th Ave W & W Highland Dr
Charles Richey Sr. Viewpoint (Alki Beach Park)	1702 Alki Ave SW
East Portal I-90 Overlook	1400 Lake Washington Blvd.
Hamilton Viewpoint	1531 California Way SW
Kerry Viewpoint (Kerry Park)	211 W Highland Dr.
Louisa Boren Lookout (Louisa Boren Park)	15 th Ave E & E Garfield St
Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint	1403 - 31st Ave. S
West Seattle Rotary Viewpoint	35 th Ave SW & SW Alaska St
Emma Schmitz Memorial Overlook	4503 Beach Dr SW
Sunset Hill Viewpoint (Sunset Hill Park)	NW 77 th St & 34 th Ave SW
Ursula Judkins Viewpoint	W Galer Street & 26 th Ave W
NW 60 th Street Viewpoint	6001 Seaview Ave NW

Parks Managed for Views	
<i>Park</i>	<i>Address</i>
Bhy Kracke Park	1215 - 5 th Ave N
Commodore Park	3330 W Commodore Way
Dr. Jose Rizal Park	12 th Ave S & S Judkins St
Fairview Park	2900 Fairview Ave E
Fremont Peak Park	4357 Palatine Ave N
Kinnear Park	899 W Olympic Pl
Kobe Terrace	221 - 6 th Ave S
Lakeview Park	340 - 37 th Ave S
Mt. Claire Park	Mt Claire Drive S
Plymouth Pillars Park (Boren Pike Pine Park)	Boren Ave & Pike St
Victor Steinbrueck Park	2001 Western Ave
Volunteer Park (Water Tower)	1247 - 15th Ave E